

# **National Cooperative Highway Research Program**

AASHTO Technical Committee on  
Environmental Design

April 7 – 10, 2008

***Cooperative Research Programs  
Transportation Research Board***





1920 - Formation of  
NRC Advisory  
Committee on  
Highway Research

1924 –Highway  
Research Board

1974 – Transportation  
Research Board

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## ***TRB TODAY***

- All modes
- 480 Committees and Panels
- 4,600 Committee Members
- 120 Staff
- \$50 Million Budget
- 150 Reports per Year

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## *TRB Annual Meeting Program*

- Over 500 sessions
- 2,500+ presentations
- 350 TRB committee meetings
- 10,000 + delegates



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# TRB Cooperative Research Programs

National Cooperative **Highway** Research Program  
(1962- \$30 mill.)

**Transit** Cooperative Research Program  
( 1992 - \$9 mill)

Commercial **Truck & Bus** Safety Synthesis Program  
(2002 - \$300,000)

**Airport** Cooperative Research Program  
(2003 - \$10 mill)

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# TRB Cooperative Research Programs (cont'd)

## **Hazardous Materials** Cooperative Research Program

(2007 - \$1 mill)

## National Cooperative **Freight** Research Program

(2007 - \$4 mill)

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# Why Cooperative Research?

- Leverage funding, reduce duplication
- Stakeholder involvement ensures relevance and accountability
- Partnerships foster trust and research on common interests
- National Academies brings credibility, continuity, objectivity

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# CRP Success Factors

- Effective governance
- Stakeholder ownership
- Partnerships
- Credible management
- Reliable funding



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# NCHRP

- “AASHTO’s Research Program”
- State DOT support
- Formed in 1962
- Applied Research Focus

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# Applied Research:

- AASHTO Guides and Specifications
- Guides for practitioners
- Software products
- Product enhancements
- New or improved models/tools
- Improved operations and services
- Testing/evaluation techniques



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# Financial Support

- From State Departments of Transportation
- With 5 1/2% of State Planning and Research funds (voluntary contribution)
- SPR = 2% of Federal Aid Highway apportionment

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## **Project 15-33**

# **AASHTO Guide for Transportation Landscape and Environmental Design**

Panel chair: Keith Robinson, CalTrans

Contractor: Donal Simpson, HNTB

Two years, \$400,000

Est. completion: May 2008

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## Project 14-16

# AASHTO Guidelines for Vegetation Control

Panel chair: John Rowen, NY DOT

Contractor: Ian Heap, Weedsmart

Two years, \$300,000

Est. completion: June 2008

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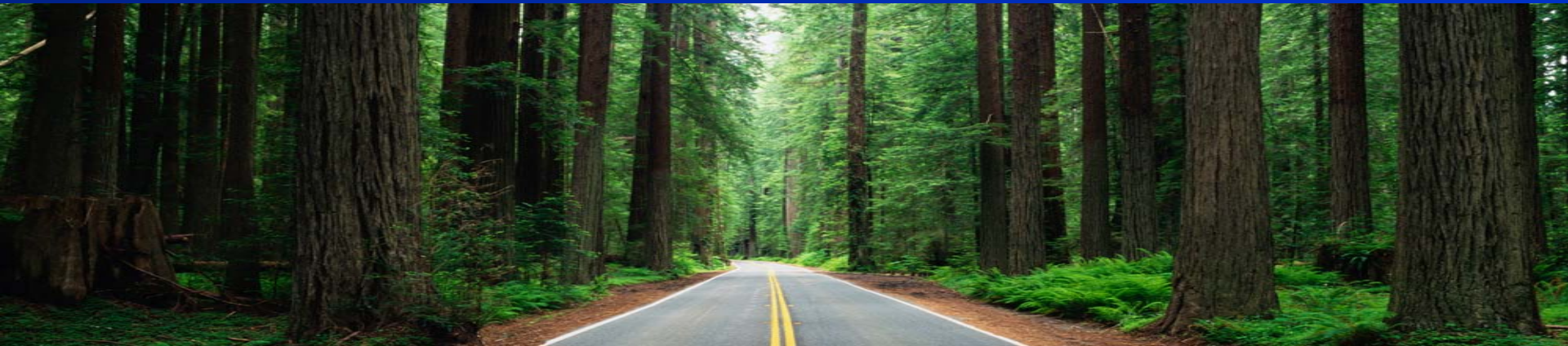
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# Continuing NCHRP Projects:

- Synthesis of Practice
- International Scanning Program
- Quick response studies for AASHTO committees



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# **“Research on Research”**

- **Research Performance Measures**
- **Communicating the Value of Research**
- **Facilitating Research Implementation**
- **Knowledge Management Networks**

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# The NCHRP Process



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# Problem Statements:

- Annual solicitation (June)
- General description of problem or research need
- Three sources:
  - AASHTO committees and subcommittees
  - State Departments of Transportation
  - Federal Highway Administration

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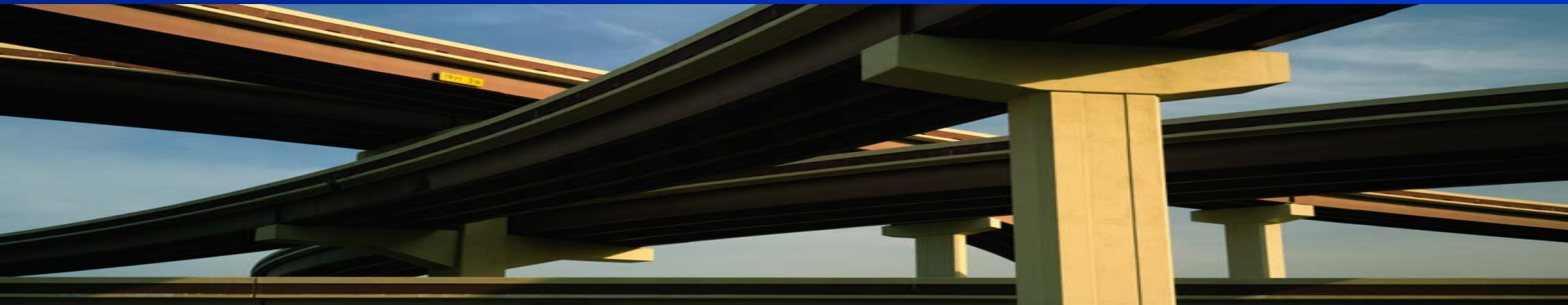
# Problem statements reviewed by:

- NCHRP and FHWA staff
- AASHTO Standing Committee on Research
- AASHTO Research Advisory Committee
- AASHTO Committees

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## Projects selected by:

- AASHTO Standing Committee on Research - SCOR
- Approval Required by 2/3 of AASHTO Board of Directors



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# Formation of Advisory Panels

- Experts in subject matter
- Typically 8 members
- 4-5 State DOT
- Academia, Associations, Private Sector, Municipalities
- Liaison from FHWA

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# TRB.ORG

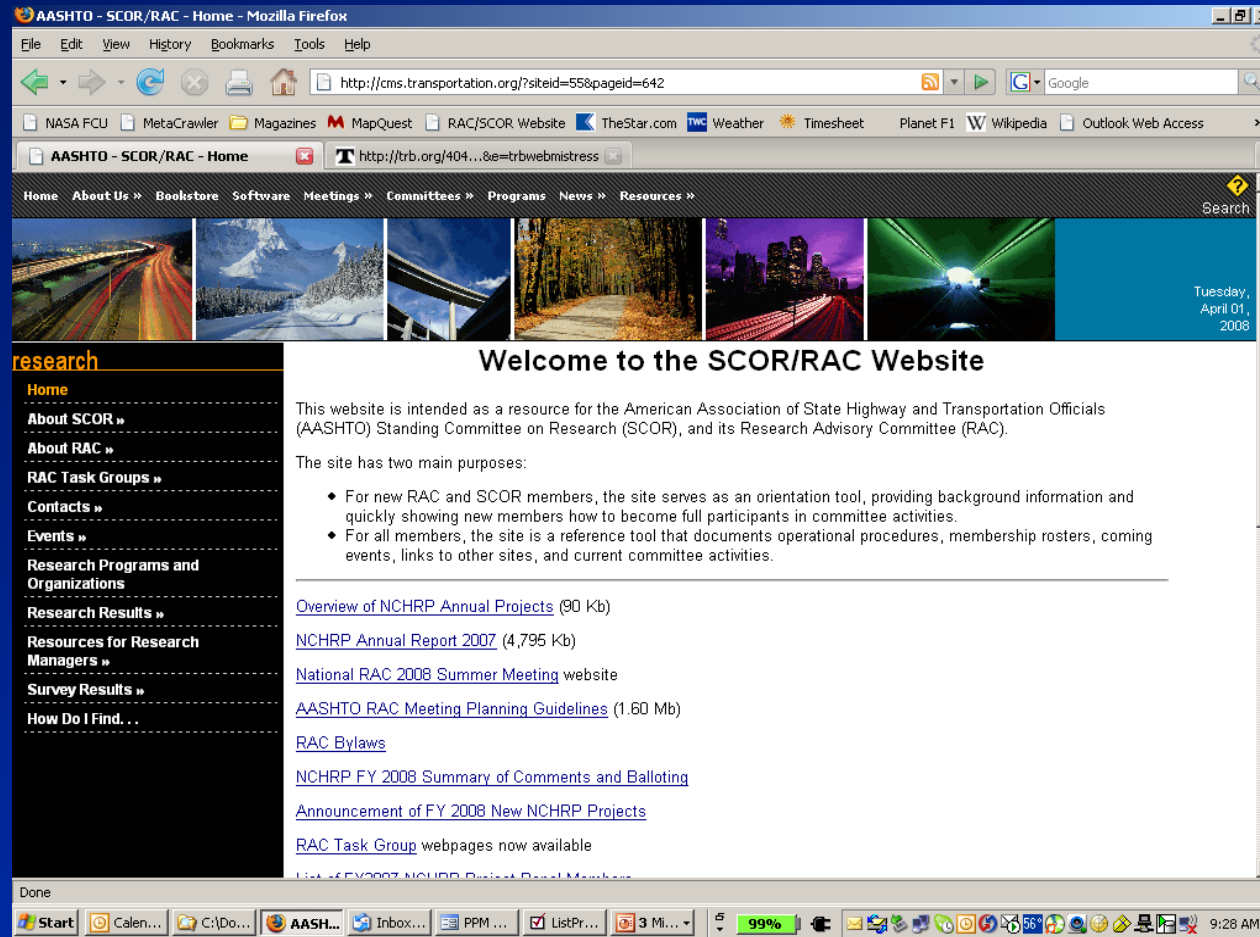


- Information on NCHRP and TCRP
- Search engine
- Project Info since 1988: Anticipated / Active / Completed
- CRP publication lists / ordering info
- Requests for proposals
- Registration form for notification of RFPs

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# Research.transportation.org



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